

Dear Honorable Members of the Environment Committee:

I am sincerely outraged that there is a potential bill, HB 5295, to allow the processing of thousands of rabbits for food consumption. I am a resident of this state, and also am actively part of a well known rabbit rescue. I also serve as an animal control officer for two CT jurisdictions. From these aspects alone, I can tell you we are constantly fielding calls for dumped and unwanted rabbits. If this gets passed it will make it that much worse for those of us trying to help the welfare of these animals.

There is also a highly contagious and fatal rabbit virus, Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease, that has spread from Europe to Canada to America, and has already hit NYC. This virus affects wild cottontails and domestic rabbits. The only way to prevent is for them to all have extremely costly vaccines and boosters to prevent the spread of the virus. Being packed in a facility with rabbits from various places poses an irresponsible risk.

Pet stores, cosmetic companies and a national food retailer, Whole Foods, have even stopped selling any form of rabbit because of the lack of profit. People do not want the inhumane treatment of this animal that's popularity is along side cats and dogs. The passing of this bill would be a massive step backwards.

Please, Kindly Vote ****NO on HB5295.****

Thank you for your time,
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